

Message Text

SECRET

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46 S

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITF-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SR-02 ORM-01

VO-03 SCA-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02 L-02

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 AID-05

USIE-00 PA-01 /066 W

----- 090511

O R 101208Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4035

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 8505

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: VANG PAO'S FOLLOWERS FLEE TO THAILAND

1. TWO OF VANG PAO'S AIR PLANES HAVE ARRIVED AT THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE UDORN ROYAL THAI AIRBASE CARRYING ABOUT 100 FAMILY MEMBERS OF HIS FOLLOWERS AND A SMALL NUMBER OF HIS MEN. ANOTHER PLANELOAD IS EXPECTED LATER TONIGHT. THE MEO HAVE BEEN MET AND ARE BEING HANDLED AND HOUSED BY THE THAI (SOD 917). THE THAI GOVERNOR OF UDORN PROVINCE, THAI IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AND THE THAI PRESS HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE REFUGEES, WHO ARE NOW HOUSED BY THE THAI IN A PRIVATE RESIDENCE OUTSIDE THE AIR BASE.

2. THROUGH THAI ARMY CHANNELS, SOD 917 HAS ASKED FOR THE ROYAL THAI ARMY'S APPROVAL TO RELOCATE THESE REFUGEES TO NAM PHONG AIRBASE AND TO USE THIS TO HOUSE OTHERS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE TOMORROW. WE KNOW THE GENERAL SERM HAS THIS MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REQUIRE HIGHEST LEVEL APPROVAL AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN OBTAINED.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING HERE IN BANGKOK THAT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MOVEMENT OF VANG PAO'S FOLLOWERS HAS BEEN

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LIMITED TO THE JOINT LIAISON DETACHMENT IN UDORN PASSING AN

INITIAL MESSAGE ON THIS MATTER FROM VANG PAO TO THE THAIS
(SOD 917). IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT ALL POSSIBLE STEPS BE TAKEN
TO AVOID GIVING ANY IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE INVOLVED IN MOVING
THESE PEOPLE INTO THAILAND OR THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ANY OTHER
ACTIONS WHICH WOULD INFRINGE ON THAI SOVEREIGNTY.

4. AS SOON AS THE THAI AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN BANGKOK
FIND OUT THROUGH THEIR OWN CHANNELS JUST WHAT IS GOING ON,
I EXPECT TO HEAR FROM THEM. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE ON POSITION I SHOULD TAKE REGARDING THIS LATEST
GROUP OF REFUGEES.
MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO08505
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750164-0994
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750562/aaaaceeq.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANG PAO'S FOLLOWERS FLEE TO THAILAND
TAGS: SREF, PFOR, TH, LA, US, (VANG PAO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006